

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

[(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that is at least about 80 percent identical to the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 wherein the polypeptide activates one or more FGF receptors, regulates the growth and differentiation of cells within the liver, regulates other cell types following secretion from the liver, plays a role in liver chemotaxis, has an oncogenic activity, or serves as an antigen for generating antibodies;

(d) an allelic variant or splice variant of any of (a), (b) or (c);]

[(e)] the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert in ATCC Deposit No. _____;

[(f) a nucleotide sequence of (b), (c) or (d) encoding a polypeptide fragment of at least about 25 amino acid residues wherein the polypeptide fragment activates one or more FGF receptors, regulates the growth and differentiation of cells within the liver, regulates other cell types following secretion from the liver, plays a role in liver chemotaxis, has an oncogenic activity, or serves as an antigen for generating antibodies;

(g) a nucleotide sequence of (a), (b) or (c) comprising a fragment of at least about 16 nucleotides;

(h) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that has a substitution and/or deletion of 1 to 100 amino acid residues as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 wherein the polypeptide activates one or more FGF receptors, regulates the growth and differentiation of cells within the liver, regulates other cell types following secretion from the liver, plays a role in liver chemotaxis, has an oncogenic activity, or serves as an antigen for generating antibodies; and]

[(i)]d) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under moderately or highly stringent conditions to the complement of any of (a) - [(h)]e);

[(j)]e) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any of (a), (b), (c), or (i)] - (c).

5. (Amended) A process of producing an FGF-like polypeptide comprising culturing the recombinant host cell of Claim[s] 2[, 3, or 4 in a culture medium] under suitable conditions [such that said] to express the polypeptide [is produced].

8. (Amended) A[n expression] vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claims 1, 39, or 40.

9. (Amended) A host cell comprising the [expression] vector of Claim 8.

36. (Amended) A method of modulating levels of a polypeptide in an animal comprising administering to the animal the nucleic acid molecule of Claims 1, 39, 40, or 8.

Please add the following claims:

New Claim 39. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that is at least about 80 percent identical to the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, or serves as an antigen for generating antibodies;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding an allelic variant or splice variant of either the nucleotide sequence as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3; the nucleotide sequence of the DNA insert in ATCC Deposit No. _____; or (a) wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

(c) a nucleotide sequence of either SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3; the DNA insert in ATCC Deposit No. _____; (a); or (b); encoding a polypeptide fragment of at least about 25 amino acid residues wherein the polypeptide fragment has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, or serves as an antigen for generating antibodies;

(d) a nucleotide sequence of either SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3; the DNA insert in ATCC Deposit No. _____ or (a) - (c) comprising a fragment of at least about 16 nucleotides;

(e) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under moderately or highly stringent conditions to the complement of any of (a) - (d) and wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4; and

(f) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any of (a) - (c).

New Claim 40. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 with at least one conservative amino acid substitution, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 with at least one amino acid insertion, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 with at least one amino acid deletion, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 which has a C- and/or N-terminal truncation, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in either SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 with at least one modification selected from the group consisting of amino acid substitutions, amino acid insertions, amino acid deletions, C-terminal truncation, and N-terminal truncation, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

(f) a nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (e) comprising a fragment of at least about 16 nucleotides; 12.2

(g) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under moderately or highly stringent conditions to the complement of any of (a) - (f); and

(h) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any of (a) - (e).

New Claim 41. The process of Claim 5, further comprising recovering the polypeptide from the culture.

Sub 5 New Claim 42. A process of producing an FGF-like polypeptide comprising culturing the recombinant host cell of Claim 8 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide.

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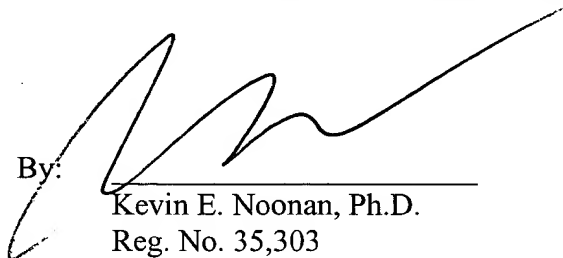
New Claim 43. The process of Claim 42, further comprising recovering the polypeptide from the culture.

If the Examiner in charge of this application believes it to be helpful, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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